

**Syllabus**  
**Sul Ross State University – Rio Grande College**  
**EDUC 5307 – Graduate Research**  
**Fall, 2014**

**Instructors:**

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**Course Description:**

This purpose of this course is to broaden the perspectives of graduate students and introduce them to the techniques of research. Further the class is planned to enable students to write a Research Project using conventional English usage, in the style of APA.

The class is designed to be presented in two sections. One section will discuss the process of reading and understanding research. The second section provides the learner to write sections of a Research Project. The Research Project will be the product of this part of the class instruction. The project will follow the conventions of Standard English usage and will be written in the APA style. The ultimate goal of this course is to enable students to more effectively read research, and write a Research Project which enables the learner to gain a perspective of the writing process of research.

Each segment of the course will have specific assignments and evaluative measures specifically delineated by the professor and will make up half of the total grade. The average from each section will count equally toward the final grade for the completion of the class.

The texts are:

Locke, Lawrence F., Stephen J. Silverman & Waneen Wyrick Spirduso. (2010) Reading and Understanding Research Ed. 3 SAGE Loss Angeles.

Lester, Mark and Larry Beason. (2013) The McGraw-Hill Handbook of English Grammar and Usage, Edition 2. McGraw Hill, New York.

**Prerequisites:**

This course is to be taken during the first 12 hours of graduate coursework so that the learner will have tools with which to understand the research content of the remaining coursework in the specific program.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss various types of research
2. Describe various treatments and manipulations of data in research reports as they pertain to educational research.
3. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods.
4. Describe the value of specific research designed for the specific research content.

## **Student Outcomes:**

Learner objectives for this course were derived from domains contained in the varied TExES Study Guides. These are utilized in the different TExES exams that are required for the desired Texas certification program which is obtained by earning a Master's Degree. The TExES domains illustrate how each course objective and evaluation product is aligned with specific standards and incorporated as criteria against which candidates are measured. This alignment is meant to demonstrate how the work of this course promotes adherence to State and National Standards in the context of the course content described. Participants in this course are expected to become familiar with these standards and their implications for entering the field.

## **Research Methods Section Student Evaluation:**

1. Student attendance is required to successfully complete this section of the class and you will receive an attendance grade to be averaged in with the class participation/daily assignments portion of your grade. There are 5 class meetings each of which is worth 20 points. This will be 1/3 of your grade for the section of the class. You do not need to feel the need to contact me in the event you are absent from this class. I will know that when I take roll. There is no excused excuse for an absence in this section of the class.
2. Each student will be assigned content from the text to be the substance for class discussion during every class.
3. There will be one test consisting of three sections that will serve as 2/3rds of your grade for this portion of this class.
4. Your final grade will be an average of your scores on the Research Methods and the Research Project sections of the course.

## **Grade for Research Method section:**

Attendance and completion of class assignments will count as 1/3 of your total grade. The test for this part of the course has three parts and each part will combine to provide a score of a possible 100. The test section of the class is worth 2/3s of your total grade for this section. The average of the Research Methods section will be averaged with the Research Project section of the class. Each section is worth ½ of your total grade.

## **Research Writing Section Student Evaluation:**

This is a graduate level course and class attendance will count 1/3 of your total grade for this section of the class. There are 8 class periods that address the material in this section of the class and each class is worth 12 points toward your daily grade of the class. Each of the of the four sections that comprise the Research Projects will be worth 100 points and will count as 1/3 of your total grade for this portion of the class. Your final Research Project will be worth 1/3 of your total grade for this portion of the class.

The research proposal will be evaluated on two criteria: content presented in accordance with the research processes and mechanics discussed and demonstrated in class, and the Standard Usage of the conventions of English writing. The APA format will be a portion of this aspect in the grading of the Research Project.

Specifics for the Research Project include:

1. Title Page
2. Reference Page(s) Minimum number of 10 sources
3. Minimum length of 10 pages double-spaced, in addition to title page and reference pages
4. Adherence to correct research documentation standards

- a. no use of first person, rather “The writer or researcher will”
  - b. all citations correlate within text and reported on reference page
  - c. all positions substantiated by research (no personal opinions)
  - d. appropriate citation for all credited sources
5. Integrate all research as whole rather than summarizing individual articles

APA format will be utilized: Type font is to be Arial 12 point, standard left and right, and top and bottom margins. The project will include the following sections: Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology which includes a description of the population and sample selection, a description of the instrument purposed to be used in the study, and the how the student results will be disseminated. Each section should include subsections discussed and demonstrated in class.

### **Grade for the Research Project Section**

Attendance will worth 100 points and will count as 1/3 of your total grade. Each section of the Project sections will be worth 100 points each and the average of which will constitute 1/3 of your total grade. The Research Project will be worth 100 points and will be worth 1/3 of your total grade for this section of the class. The average of the Research Methods section will be averaged with the Research Project section of the class. Each section is worth ½ of your total grade.

### **Dropping a Class:**

During the course of a semester, circumstances can often prevent students from completing a class successfully. Dropping a class may be necessary and/or wise in your specific case. Please feel free to contact me regarding if it is in your best interest to drop the class. Should dropping the class be the best course of action, you are responsible for completing the necessary actions to do so by April 4, 2014. A professor can also drop a student for non-participation which will result in an “F”.

### **Academic Integrity**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct, for which a student is subject to penalty, includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable and, for the purpose of this course, is defined as using in part or in whole any material written or designed by someone other than the student, unless appropriate credit is given to the person or resource material used. This includes, but is not limited to: lesson plans found on the Internet, lessons provided by classroom teachers, materials located in any form of publication (books, magazines, internet sites, etc.), book reviews, and coursework completed by previous students. Disciplinary action for academic misconduct will first be considered by the faculty member assigned to the course and can result in failure of individual assignments and/or course credit.

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